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1 commercial motor carrier vehicles for compliance with the
2 state's safety standards; and

3 WHEREAS, a critical component of safety inspections of
4 commercial motor carrier vehicles is the brake system and
5 performance of the brakes; and

6 WHEREAS, nationally, brake problems are in the top ten of
7 safety violations found during commercial motor carrier vehicle
8 inspections; and

9 WHEREAS, in federal fiscal year 2004, the motor
10 transportation division inspected seventy-four thousand
11 commercial motor carrier vehicles, but less than twelve
12 thousand inspections included inspection of a vehicle's brakes;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the motor transportation division has limited
15 resources and a high turnover in trained employees due to
16 noncompetitive salaries, thus restricting its ability to
17 conduct an increased number of brake inspections; and

18 WHEREAS, due to limited access to available technology,
19 most brake inspections in this state must be performed
20 manually, requiring motor transportation division employees to
21 physically get under a commercial motor carrier vehicle to
22 measure brake wear; and

23 WHEREAS, there is available infrared and computerized
24 brake inspection technology, that can screen brake wear of a
25 commercial motor carrier vehicle in just a few minutes; and

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1 WHEREAS, the motor transportation division does own some
2 modern brake inspection equipment, but the approximate three-
3 hundred-thousand-dollar (\$300,000) cost of an infrared unit,
4 for example, prohibits the division from obtaining additional
5 equipment;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the motor transportation division of
8 the department of public safety be requested to study how to
9 enhance public safety by performing more inspections of
10 commercial motor carrier vehicle brakes, including:

11 A. the use and cost of acquiring additional
12 infrared, computerized or other state-of-the-art inspection
13 equipment;

14 B. the cost of retaining trained personnel to
15 operate that equipment;

16 C. contracting with the private sector for brake
17 inspection; and

18 D. performing annual brake inspections at
19 registration time or some other time as the division deems
20 appropriate; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the motor transportation
22 division of the department of public safety report the findings
23 of its study to the appropriate interim legislative committee
24 before the second session of the forty-seventh legislature; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

1 transmitted to the secretary of public safety, the director of
2 the motor transportation division and the co-chairs of the New
3 Mexico legislative council.

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